GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3976
ANSWERED ON:09.04.2003
SELECTION OF HAJ ASSISTANTS
BASUDEB ACHARIA

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the norms laid down for the selection of Government employees as Haj Assistants on deputation basis;

(b) the number of Government employees thus selected during the last three years and to be selected in the coming year;

(c) whether the Government are contemplating to increase the number of Haj Assistants in view of the increasing Haj yatries;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether there was any deviation from the prescribed criteria for deputation during the Haj 2003;

(f) if so, the reasons therefor;

(g) whether the deputationists are forced to work for more than eight hours without weekly holidays and compensation; and

(h) if so, the reasons therefor?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI VINOD KHANNA)

(a) The eligibility criteria and terms and conditions for temporary deputation of the Haj Assistants are quite explicit and a copy of the same is laid on the table of the House.

(b) The actual number of Haj Assistants who were sent in last three years are as follows:

2001 - 116
2002 - 131
2003 - 128

In addition to Haj Assistants other Government employees were also deputed as per the following details:

Category of deputationist	2001	2002	2003
Assistant Haj Officer	34	37	34
Doctors	96	107	94
Paramedical Staff	118	125	92

Number of deputationists in the coming year depends on the actual request of CGI, Jeddah, which is based on their assessment after the completion of Haj period.

(c) & (d) No.

(e) & (f) No.

(g) & (h) Haj arrangements require 24-hour services to be provided to the pilgrims during their stay in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. All officials deputed from India for Haj duties are deemed to be on duty during their entire period of deputation in Saudi Arabia.Their services are utilised on occasions for 8 hours per day and on other occasions for longer periods depending on exigencies.

Statement referred to in part of (a) of the Answer to the Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No 3976 to be answered as 9.4.2003

========== Eligibility Criteria and Terms and Conditions for Temporary Deputation to Consulate General of India, Jeddah, Saudi Arabia for Haj - 2003. ==========

A. Eligibility Conditions:

• For Assistant Haj Officer, the applicant should be Gazetted Officer serving in the grade of Section Officer of Central Government or equivalent.

• For Haj Assistant, the applicant should be holding a non-Gazetted post not below the grade of an Upper Division Clerk of Central Government or equivalent.

• The applicant should not be more than 45 years of age as on 1.1.2003.

• The applicant should be medically fit and produce a Certificate to this effect from a Government Hospital.

• The applicant should be holding permanent post in his grade.

• The applicant who have already performed Haj duty twice or more are not eligible. However, the Ministry of External Affairs reserves the right to consider any application in relaxation of these requirement in case of applicants, who have rendered exemplary services during previous deputations.

• Applications of officers in the higher grade than prescribed shall not be entertained.

B. Desirable Qualifications:

• Due weightage will be given to applicants having knowledge of regional languages.
• Weightage will be given to the applicants having experience in public relations & accounts. Preference will be given to applicants having knowledge of Data Entry and Computer Programming.

C. Pay & Allowances:

• Basic Pay, HRA & CCA and Foreign Allowance as admissible to India-based staff in CGI, Jeddah of equivalent rank.
• No Daily Allowance would be admissible.
• Lump sum transfer grant would be admissible as per MEA Rules.
• Economy class air ticket to and from Jeddah would be provided to the deputationists.
• The selected candidates will be entitled to normal baggage allowance of 20 kgs.
• Accommodation would be provided on sharing basis to the deputationists.

The officials selected will be entitled for eight days' preparation/joining time before departure. No joining/preparation time is admissible on return from deputation.
• No conveyance allowance would be paid for completing various formalities in Delhi.
• Expenditure on account of salary, air travel to and fro Jeddah and accommodation in Saudi Arabia will be borne by the Ministry of External Affairs for the period of deputation in Saudi Arabia, including preparation time.

D. Deployment and Duties of the Deputationists:

• The deputationists will be deployed by Consulate General of India, Jeddah, at various branch offices in Makkah and Madinah, Haj Terminal at Jeddah, Camps at Mina & Arafat, etc. The duties of the deputationists will include:

(i) To assist pilgrims at their Maktabs and camps during the pilgrimage.

(ii) To assist pilgrims in their daily activities and to attend to their grievances.

(iii) To assist the pilgrims to perform their Haj rituals.

(iv) Any other assistance needed by pilgrims.

E. General Conditions of the deputation:-

• The selected officials will not be allowed to take any of their family members, including spouse, even at their own cost.
• The deputationists are not allowed to interact with the media. Violation of this condition will result in immediate recall and disciplinary action.
• Persons deputed for the second time are not allowed to perform Haj pilgrimage.
• The deputationists should always be in civilian clothes.
• The services of the deputationists will be at the disposal of the Consulate General of India, Jeddah, during their deputation.
• Failure to perform duties assigned to the deputationists satisfactorily could lead to immediate repatriation to India and disciplinary action, including partial or full recovery of the Government money spent on his/her deputation.